

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding a digital video sequence for use within a video communication system, said digital video sequence comprising some sets of images including a disparity map comprising an image in which a disparity value is assigned to every pixel, said disparity map being used to reconstruct one image of a set of images from a reference image of said set of images, characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:

encoding with a first encoding means a type of the disparity map to be used for the reconstruction of an image, wherein the type (i) represents the way that disparity values of the disparity map are to be translated by a decoder within the video communication system, and (ii) explains to the decoder how to use exactly the disparity map on the reference image to reconstruct one image of the set of images from another one; and

encoding with a second encoding means the disparity map.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of processing a digital video sequence as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the encoding of the type of the disparity map is done by means of a flag, wherein use of the flag allows simple definition of the type of disparity map.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of processing a digital video sequence as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the encoding of the type of the disparity map is followed by a set of encoded parameters.

4. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a computer program for execution by an encoder, said computer program comprising a set of instructions, which, when loaded into said encoder, causes the encoder to carry out the method claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a computer program for execution by a computer, said computer program comprising a set of instructions, which, when loaded into said computer, causes the computer to carry out the method claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

6. (Currently Amended) An encoder for encoding a digital video sequence, said digital video sequence comprising some sets of images including a disparity map comprising an image in which a disparity value is assigned to every pixel, said disparity map being used to reconstruct one image of a set of images from a reference image of said set of images, characterized in that the encoder comprises:

first encoding means for encoding a type of the disparity map to be used for the reconstruction of an image, wherein the type (i) represents the way that disparity values of the disparity map are to be translated by a decoder within a video communication system, and (ii) explains to the decoder how to use exactly the disparity map on the reference image to reconstruct one image of the set of images from another one; and

second encoding means for encoding the disparity map.

7. (Previously Presented) A video communication system, which is able to receive a digital video sequence, said video communication system comprising an encoder as claimed in claim 6 for encoding said video signal, a transmission channel for transmitting the encoded video signal, and a decoder for decoding said encoded video signal.